

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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PLEASE PASS USDEL INDIAN OCEAN WG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, XO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET BROADCAST ON INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF COMMENTARY BY RADIO MOSCOW
BROADCAST IN BENGALI TO BANGLADESH AT 1300 GMT ON 24 JUNE:

BEGIN TEXT: ON 22 JUNE SOVIET-US TALKS BEGAN IN MOSCOW ON
THE QUESTION OF LIMITING THE ARMS BUILDUP IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN REGION. COMMENTATOR BORIS SERGEYEV WRITES: AN
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED DURING US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS
VANCE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST MARCH ON HOLDING BILATERAL
TALKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE. THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO
THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS WERE THE MAIN TOPICS OF
DISCUSSION AT THE SOVIET-US TALKS IN MOSCOW. IT IS TO BE
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NOTED THAT DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THIS COMPLEX ISSUE, THE
QUESTION OF REDUCING MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE NONLITTORAL
STATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION WAS ALSO RAISED. THIS
ONCE AGAIN PROVES HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE THE SOVIET UNION
ATTACHES TO LESSENING POLITICAL AND MILITARY TENSION ALL
OVER THE WORLD. THE SOVIET UNION HAS SUPPORTED THE
INITIATIVE TAKEN BY INDIA, SRI LANKA AND OTHER LITTORAL

STATES FOR MAKING THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE. IT
SHARES THE ALARM NORMALLY EXPRESSED BY THE NATIONS IN THIS

REGION TOWARD INCREASED WESTERN MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN
THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE MEMORANDUM PRESENTED BY THE SOVIET
UNION FOR DISCUSSION AT THE 31ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION ON THE QUESTION OF ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND
DISARMAMENT CLEARLY REFLECTS THE SOVIET STAND ON THE
INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE. IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL
PROBLEMS IN CHANGING THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE
ARE TO LIQUIDATE EXISTING MILITARY BASES AND TO PREVENT
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FOREIGN MILITARY BASES THERE. AS
ON EARLIER OCCASIONS, IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES OF PENTAGON
AND THE MONOPOLY MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL LOBBY OF THE US
CONGRESS ARE CONTINUING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE QUESTION
OF LIQUIDATING US MILITARY BASES IN THIS REGION. THE
NATIONAL HERALD OF INDIA HAS RIGHTLY SAID: MOREOVER, LIKE
CHINA, THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND ARE LOUDLY DEMANDING THAT THE US NAVAL FORCES
SHOULD NOT ONLY BE PRESENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT SHOULD
BE FURTHER INCREASED. DESPITE ALL THESE OBSTACLES, THE
SOVIET UNION FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT AS A PART OF THE GENERAL
STRUGGLE FOR THE CAUSE OF RELAXATION OF TENSION, PEACE AND
DISARMAMENT, THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIAN OCEAN CAN BE SOLVED.
BY STARTING ITS TALKS WITH THE US REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW,
THE SOVIET UNION, ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONS EXPRESSING
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SIMILAR INTEREST, ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RIGHTS, HAS
GENUINELY PROVED ITS EAGERNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
EFFORTS OF MAKING THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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